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YOU BE THE CRITIC

The column where readers have their say

Please note that letters may be condensed at the editor's discretion. Send them to: *You Be The Critic, Entertainments Dept., The Gazette, P.O. Box 6036, Montreal H3C 3E2.*

What an injustice to Stephen Barry

I am writing to call David Sherman to task for two journalist's injustices he recently perpetrated on the Stephen Barry Band. I refer to your review of their record on June 16 and a character piece on the band members resulting from an interview in the back room of the Iroquois this spring.

A record is a work of art which has an existence of its own. It deserves to be judged on its own merits and not just compared to other performances of the same material, by the same or other people. Sherman liked the band when they were playing this material this way. Does he wish to deny artists the right to record before they are done improving and are ready to become hacks repeating themselves night after night. Or until they can make no further progress. He owes it to the work and to the artists to address the work directly rather than implicitly condemning it without ever describing it.

Of course, the Stephen Barry Band is better today than it was several month ago. Of course, it is different. Its members are developing artists who perform with integrity, craft, respect and love for the works of others and themselves. If the members are permitted by the structure of the band to continue to grow, so will the music of the band—from record to record as well as from day to day.

Sidney L. Gullick
Montreal

De Valois: An outrage

I wax outraged at the headline on Linde Howe-Beck's article on the visit of Dame Ninette de Valois (June 14) who was recently in Montreal to promote The Royal Ballet's upcoming performances at Place des Arts.

I spent three days with Dame Ninette and can testify to the fact that she did not come to Montreal to give advice to anyone, and certainly not to Canadian dance, which she hardly knows.

I find it bad enough that her off-hand remark, in answer to a question about The National Ballet of Canada, the only company she had then seen, was reported. It was a casual phrase a long distance away from the core of the message she came to deliver.

On the other hand, to summarize her interview under the heading "De Valois dances into Montreal with some advice" and "Dame Ninette says Canadians are out of step" is false and an insult to the many choreographers that create in Canada, as well as to her.

I am sure she would be quite livid if she knew she had been misrepresented in this way.

URIEL G. LUFT
Montreal

Glenn Miller exciting

It is quite apparent that your critic did not see the same Glenn Miller show at Place Des Arts as I did (June 13).

For Mr. Rodriguez' information, the show was not comprised of boring musicians making a show of turning their music sheets. As anyone could see, these musicians were exciting to watch and quite interested in the music they were playing, and received two standing ovations.

I wonder if perhaps your critic is not influenced by the current trend of music today. The music of The Glenn Miller Orchestra is pleasant to listen to and it was most enjoyable to hear the music again played in the style of the original versions.

To Mr. Rodriguez, it may sound like "supermarket music"; to me it was a recollection of the most beautiful music to come out of any era.

I will never comprehend, however, the fact that *The Gazette* continously sends a rock critic to cover these types of shows. Mr. Rodriguez mentions that the majority of musicians were not born when Glenn Miller disappeared. I question Mr. Rodriguez' age.

A. Schwartz
Montreal

Miller fans enchanted

I read with great despair the critique Juan Rodriguez wrote about the Glenn Miller concert. Personally, I think Mr. Rodriguez is a very poor critic. When he compares the Glenn Miller band to supermarket background music, all I can say is that he is tone deaf.

The Glenn Miller band itself was a great success. Jimmy Henderson plays the trombone magnificently and they really carried you back to the 40's and 50's. They all displayed such an incredible sound and the audience was enchanted. With the Harmony Moon Light Serenade and especially Anita Dilleberto, how could you criticize such inspired interpretation?

The only thing wrong was Ada Carello, the guest singer, who sang three French songs which you could not understand. The type of songs she chose were not of the Glenn Miller era and broke the atmosphere.

Carole Grisé
Montreal

Unfair to Cheap Trick

In response to Juan Rodriguez' criticism (June 12,) of the Cheap Trick concert, I do believe the man is getting far too senile in his attitudes to Rock 'n' Roll.

The picture he draws seems as though he was expecting the Dance of The Sugar Plum Fairies a la Disco. The man has no sense of keeping Rock 'n' Roll alive and well.

It bothers me that the man's opinion, which I've respected for years, has finally gone to being that of a very Narrow Minded Person. Cheap Trick did exactly what I and many others expected of them . . . nothing Less.

Being a 25-year-old Rock 'n' Roller, I'm glad to see some bands still believe in Keeping Rock 'n' Roll alive and well.

L.C. Hebel
Pte. Claire

WHAT'S ON WEEKEND

CLUBS

Le Pretzel Enchaine, 2112 Clark St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Michel Pagliaro. Tickets $5.50 weekdays, $6.50 weekends.

Friar's Pub, 1445 Crescent St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Short Notice. **Mon.:** Boulevard. 849-6085.

Le Bistro d'en Haut, 4885 Sherbrooke St. W. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Mikel Cowboy Miller. 488-0394.

The Maples, 121 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Omega. **Sun and Mon.:** Ash Mountain. 694-2479.

The Mustache, 1445 Closse St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Pin-Ups. 931-2575.

Rising Sun, 286 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight through Sun.:** Junior Wells. Doors open at 8 p.m. 861-0657.

Rainbow Bar & Grill, 1430 Stanley St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Humber River Valley Band. **Mon.:** Bug Alley Band. 849-8262.

Stitches, 1470 Crescent St. **Sun. and Mon.:** Standup comedy, 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., $2 at the door. **Mon.:** Open mike night. 842-3713.

St. James Pub, 2025 Drummond St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Alias. 845-6332.

The Hunter's Horn, 1214 Peel St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Clahanes. **Sun.:** Peter Suttie upstairs in The Parlour. **Mon.:** Clahanes. **Sun.:** Peter Suttie at the Horn, 6 p.m. 861-8022.

Cafe Timenes, 4857 Parc Ave. **Tonight:** The Steve Holt Jazz Quartet, with Leo Perron. **Tomorrow:** The Steve Holt Jazz Trio, with Eric Lagace, bassist and Cisco Normand, drummer. 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets $2.50.

St. James Pub, 1197 University St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Darby Williams. 861-8022.

Cock'nBull Pub, 1944 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Bowser and Blue. **Sun.:** Al Peter's Dixieland Band. **Mon.:** Talent show. 933-4556.

THEATRE

L'Escale, St. Marc-sur-Richelieu, presents *Le bonheur d'Henri,* tonight through Sept. 1. Directed by Gilbert Lepage and playwright Elizabeth Bourget. Tues. to Fri., 9 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. 584-2226.

Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre, 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd., presents Bernard Slade's *Same Time, Next Year,* starring Roger Dunn and Muriel Gold, directed by Robert Robinson. The play recounts the love affair of George and Doris who, both happily married to other people, meet once each year for five years. Sat., 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m., until July 22. 739-2301.

Actor's Studio, 7050 Victoria, Rm. 210, presents *The Odd Couple,* by Neil Simon. Tonight and tomorrow, shows at 8:30. Tickets $4.50; students, $3.50. 342-4591.

Town Stage, 12001 de Salaberry Blvd., Dollard des Ormeaux, presents *Gravediggers of 1942,* by Tom Hendry and Steve Jack. Jack Langedyk directs a cast including Mary Burns, Robert Coller, Geraldine Farrell and Gary Jewell; music by Barbara Golden. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m. Tickets at the box office. 684-1032.

La Poudriere, Ile Ste-Helene, presents *In One Bed And . . Out The Other.* Cast includes Joyce Campion, Graham Batchelor, Wendy Dawson, Dustin Wain, Ann Marie MacDonald and Mitch Martin; John Peters directs. Tonight: 8:30 p.m.; Sat., 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 526-0821.

Phoenix Theatre, 1858 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., presents Ira Levin's *Veronica's Room,* until July 1. Cast includes Joan Heney, Terence Labrosse, Colm Feore and Nancy Carragher, under the direction of Jon Michaelson. Tonight and tomorrow, 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets $5; golden agers $3.50. 931-0787.

Theatre du Nouveau Monde, 84 St. Catherine St. W. presents *Les Fees ont soif.* Cast includes Louisette Dussault, Sophie Clement and Michele Magny, directed by Jean-Luc Bastien. Tonight, 8 p.m.; tomorrow, 9 p.m.; Sun., 6 p.m. Tickets $4.50 to $7. 861-0563.

Imperial Theatre, 1430 Bleury St. Earl Wilson's *Let My People Come.* Tonight and tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sun., 8 p.m. Tickets $10, $12.50, $15, at the box office. 288-7102.

Centaur Theatre II, 453 St. Francois Xavier St. in Old Montreal, presents Pauline Le Bel in a musical cabaret-style production of *Piaf.* Tonight through Sun., 8 p.m. Sun. is the last show. Tickets at the box office. 288-1229.

FRIDAY

MUSIC

Liza Minnelli in concert at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Her show is written by Fred Ebb and choreographed by Ron Lewis. Tonight, 8:30 p.m. Tickets $12.50 to $20, at Place des Arts box office.

FILMS

UNICEF-Quebec presents a series of free films every Fri., noon to 3 p.m., in the Mini-Theatre at Le Viaduc in Place Bonaventure. 866-8013.

ETCETERA

The Old Fort Museum, St. Helen's Island, presents an exhibition entitled *The Child and the Military,* showing the little-known role of children in military life years ago. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50¢, children 25¢, groups, 25¢ per person. 861-6738.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Lord of the Rings, 7; Norma Rae, 7:15; The Silent Partner, 9:15; A Film About Jimi Hendrix, 9:45; The Rocky Horror Picture Show, midnight.

Cinematheque quebecoise (844-8734) J'me Marie, Le temps de l'avant, 7:30; Loi de la ville, This is Your Museum Speaking, 9:30.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) Carmen Jones, 7; Laura, 9.

Outremont (277-4145) Quand la panthere rose s'emmele, 7:30; Genesis: A Film Concert, Rod Stewart and the Faces, 10.

Seville (932-1139) A Perfect Couple, 7; Heaven Can Wait, 9:30; Animal House, midnight.

SATURDAY

MUSIC

L'Ensemble Vocal Arts-Quebec, featuring soloists Gail Desmarais, soprano; Madeleine Jalbert, contralto; David Doane, tenor; Rolland Gosselin, bass; under the direction of Yves Courville, presents Haydn's *Imperial Mass (Lord Nelson)* and other motets by Bach and Mozart, 5 p.m., at St. Germain Church in Outremont (Cote St. Catherine and Vincent d'Indy). Free Admission. 731-3721.

Liza Minnelli in concert at the Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Her show is written by Fred Ebb and choreographed by Ron Lewis. 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets $12.50 to $20, at Place des Arts box office.

ETCETERA

Rainbow Pathways presents *Psychosynthesis and the Creative Use of Dreams,* a workshop of fantasy, imagery, drawing, journal work, music and movement. Psychosynthesis Retreat, Chateauguay. Cost: $99. 484-5780.

Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility is sponsoring an educational display of nuclear energy, today, during shopping hours. Cavendish Mall.

The Potter's Workshop will sell pottery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekend all summer. Visitors will be shown how pots are made. Roxham Rd., Hemmingford. 465-1791.

The Old Fort Museum, St. Helen's Island, presents an exhibition entitled *The Child and the Military,* showing the little-known role of children in military life years ago. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50¢; children 25¢, groups. 25¢ per person. 861-6738.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Lord of the Rings, 7; Up in Smoke, 7:15; Norma Rae, 9:15; Quintet, 9:45; Fritz The Cat, midnight.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) Il Giardino dei Finzi Contini, 7; Gigi, 9.

Outremont (277-4145) Quand la panthere rose s'emmele, 7:30; Genesis: A Film Concert, Rod Stewart and The Faces, 10.

Seville (932-1139) The Rocky Horror Picture Show, 7; Heaven Can Wait, 9:30; Reefer Madness, midnight.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Liza Minnelli in concert at Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Her show is written by Fred Ebb and choreographed by Ron Lewis. Show at 8:30 p.m. Tickets $12.50 to $20, at the Place des Arts box office.

The Little Singers of Mount Royal under the direction of Gilbert Patenaude, present the *Ad Fugam Mass* and the motet *Sicut Cervus* of Palestrina, 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Oratory, 3800 Queen Mary Rd. Also, Raymond Daveluy gives an organ recital at 3:30 p.m.

KIDS

Cinema Parallele presents films for children every Sun., 2:30 p.m. Free admission. 843-4725.

LECTURES

Separation and Divorce Two workshops, *Can I Live Without Guilt?* and *New Relationships,* with guest speaker Bill More. 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fee $2. For location, phone 937-5351, ext. 32.

ETCETERA

Sunday In The Park 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., in N.D.G. Park, Sherbrooke and Girouard Sts. The Senior Musicians Association Dance Orchestra performs *Live Music is Best,* a special event for for senior citizens, directed by Herb Johnson with vocals by Shiela Park. Also: magic shows, jugglers, fire department display, clowns, live folk, classical and jazz music and more. In the evenings, there'll be rock 'n roll and popular music on the main stage. 487-3549 or 488-1136.

Rainbow Pathways presents *Psychosynthesis and the Creative Use of Dreams,* a workshop of fantasy, imagery, drawing, journal work, music and movement. Psychosynthesis Retreat, Chateauguay. Cost: $99. 484-5780.

Walking Tour with Save Montreal at 2 p.m.; tour meets at the southwest corner of Viger and St. Denis Sts. and covers the St. Denis St. area.

The Potter's Workshop will sell pottery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekend all summer. Visitors will be shown how pots are made. Roxham Rd., Hemmingford. 465-1791.

The Old Fort Museum, St. Helen's Island presents an exhibition entitled *The Child and the Military,* showing the little-known role of children in the military years ago. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50¢; children 25¢; groups, 25¢ per person. 861-6738.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Lord of the Rings, 7; Norma Rae, 7:15; Shampoo, 9:15; Cries and Whispers, 9:45.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) Sciuscia, 7; An American in Paris, 9.

Outremont (277-4145) Quand la panthere rose s'emmele, 7:30; John McCabe, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) Young Frankenstein, 5; Heaven Can Wait, 7:30; A Perfect Couple, 9:30.

MONDAY

MUSIC

Montreal Symphony Orchestra presents works by Mozart and Dvorak, under the direction of Uri Mayer. 8:30 p.m. at the Dollard Civic Centre, 12001 De Salaberry. Tickets $7. 872-2440.

Recorded Concert of six works by the Bach Family, 8 p.m., in the Jewish Public Library's Audio Visual Rm. at Cummings House, 5151 Cote St. Catherine Rd.

ETCETERA

Man and His World presents a horse show Mon., to celebrate Canada Day.

The Old Fort Museum, St. Helen's Island, presents an exhibition entitled *The Child and the Military,* showing the little-known role of children in military life years ago. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: Adults 50¢; children 25¢; groups, 25¢ per person. 861-6738.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Sleuth, 7; In the Name of the Father, 7:15; Don't Look Back, 9:15; Lord of the Rings, 9:45.

Conservatoire d'Art cinematographique (879-4349) The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, 8.

Outremont (277-4145) Le Prive, 7; Gros Plan, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) Heaven Can Wait, 7:30, Murder by Decree, 9:30.

Some of the crew and cast of 'Pinball.'

Montreal moviemakers hope to score with Pinball Summer

For many moviegoers, a title like *The Van* doesn't hold much promise.

For Montreal film distributor Jack Murphy, titles like it and *Malibu Beach* and *The Pom-Pom girls* are an inspiration.

The reason is that these low-budget, latter-day "beach party" flicks have hit a responsive chord with young audiences across North America — and have earned their aging makers millions of dollars.

Murphy has been inspired to put together his own happy amalgam of nice kids and nifty cars, unleash it on teens everywhere and then watch the big bucks roll in. At least, that's the plan.

Shooting started last week on Murphy's entry in the sun and sand sweepstakes, which is entitled *Pinball Summer.* It will continue into late July at dozens of local drive-ins, suburban rec rooms and backyard swimming pools.

It will be half-a-year or more till the movie comes out, and longer before we learn if Murphy's get-rich scheme works out.

In the meantime, he has entrusted his celluloid "Sure thing" to a bunch of kids — actually, a cast composed mostly of local, aspiring youngsters and a director and crew weighted heavily with recent graduates of downtown Concordia University's Cinema Studies program.

The ringleader is Bob Presner, senior in age (he's 35) and experience (10 years in the movie business in Montreal) to cast and crew, but a tireless organiser.

"Jack Murphy called me last summer with the idea," Presner said at *Pinball Summer's* temporary HQ in suburban NDG.

"He said: You know those California movies . . . they make a lot of money. *The Van* — $27 million. *Malibu Beach* — $20 million. *The Pom-Pom girls* — $30 million. Why don't we try one here?.

"I sent him over a young director, George Mihalka, whose student film *Pizza to Go* was a knock-out, and a camera man and a writer. Then, this spring, Jack called back to say he's raised $750,000 and let's make the movie.

"It's kids' stuff, really," Presner said. "Everybody's fresh-faced and attractive, even the bad guys. Dostoyevsky it ain't. But it's going to give a lot of young filmmakers a boost."

In recent years, in all movie-making centres, not the least of them, Hollywood, there has been some resentment among the established workers against the increasing numbers of film artists and craftsmen who learned their trade not by standing at the bottom, but by going to shcool.

Of course, the success of film school graduates like Steven Spielberg *(Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind),* George Lucas *(American Graffiti, Star Wars)* and Francis Ford Coppola *(The Godfather* and the upcoming *Apocalypse Now!)* has done much to defuse those sentiments.

Nonetheless, many of the two dozen (out of 40) *Pinball Summer* crew members who came through Concordia's Cinema Studies admit they have a little something to prove.

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